

REMARKS

A. Period for Reply

A Notice of Allowance issued on this case on June 4, 2003. This is very much appreciated.

This Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being mailed via first class mail or Express Mail on or before Thursday, September 4, 2003.

B. Status

The issue fee will not be filed in this case so as to present art cited by the European Patent Office and so as to present different claims to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

C. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-5 have been canceled.

Claims 6-17 have been added.

D. Application Papers

Approval of the formal drawings filed on October 11, 2001 would again be appreciated. (The drawings filed on October 11, 2001 were accepted by the Examiner in the Notice of Allowability.)

E. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

This case does not claim foreign priority. This case does not claim domestic priority. This case is an RCE.

F. Attachments

Applicants have submitted three PTO-1449 forms in this case, two with the filing of this case on October 11, 2001. The third PTO-1449 form is being filed presently with the current RCE.

Applicants have received copies of the first and second PTO-1449 forms that were submitted. All of the references have been

initialed and the PTO-1449 forms have been signed. This is appreciated.

Consideration of the references on the third PTO-1449 form (submitted herewith as to the EPO Communication) would be appreciated.

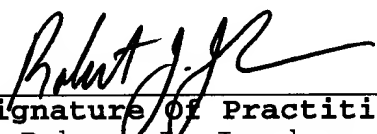
G. No new matter

This Amendment and Remarks adds a paragraph to the specification. This added paragraph includes no new matter. Explicit and implicit basis exists in the specification filed on October 11, 2001 for the added paragraph. This added paragraph provides explicit basis for portions of new claims 6-17. Entry of this added paragraph is respectfully requested.

H. Examination

Examination of the present case and consideration of the references disclosed by the EPO Communication would be appreciated. The references disclosed by the EPO Communication are found in the Information Disclosure Statement dated September 3, 2003, mailed in the same envelope as this RCE, and clipped to this RCE.

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